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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,141	12/05/2001	Alexander Beeck	033275-316	3862

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EXAMINER

VERDIER, CHRISTOPHER M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3745

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,141

Applicant(s)

BEECK ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher Verdier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3-12-02, 3-29-02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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Receipt of Applicants' Preliminary Amendments dated March 12, 2002 and March 29, 2002 is acknowledged. The changes to paragraphs 0002 and 0005 in the Preliminary Amendment dated March 29, 2002 have not been entered, because they are not in marked-up format. The Preliminary Amendment dated March 12, 2002 has been entered. The Substitute Specification has been entered.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the borescope (claims 2 and 7) and the cleaning tool (claim 6) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "5" (figure 2). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Examiner's Suggestions to Claim Language

The following are suggestions to improve the clarity and precision of the claims:

In claim 5, line 2, "a" may be changed to -- the --.

In claim 6, line 5, "an" may be changed to -- the --.

In claim 6, line 5, "a" may be changed to -- the --.

In claim 6, line 6, "an" may be changed to -- the --.

In claim 6, line 6, "a" may be changed to -- the --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 3/1, 4/3/1, 5/3/1, 3/2, 4/3/2, 5/3/2, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent 198 01 804 (figures 2-4). Note the component 1/12 of an unnumbered fluid flow machine, comprising plural cooling channels 5 (figure 2) and unnumbered/adjacent 62 (figure 3) for the passage of cooling medium, inspection apertures 22 (figure 2) and 64 (figures 3-4) through which an inspection of the interior of the component is made possible, with the inspection apertures being arranged and dimensioned such that they form a dust discharge aperture for dust or dirt particles contained in the cooling medium (because dust or dirt particles are smaller than the diameter of the inspection apertures), with the inspection apertures being dimensioned to enable introduction of a borescope. The component is

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a rotating blade for a turbine, and the inspection aperture 22 is arranged in the neighborhood of a tip of the blade near 35 (figure 2). The inspection aperture 22/64 has its longitudinal axis essentially parallel to the axis of the flow machine (figures 2-4). The inspection aperture 22 is arranged at the blade tip near 35 and has its longitudinal axis essentially perpendicular to the axis of the flow machine (figure 2). The German Patent also discloses a process for inspection and cleaning of the interior of the component, with the process comprising introducing an inspection tool in the form of a borescope through the inspection or dust discharge apertures 22/64, and performing both inspection and a cleaning of the interior of the component with the inspection tool and a cleaning tool 35.

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cederwall 4,668,162 (figures 1-2). Note the component 50 of fluid flow machine 10, comprising plural cooling channels 86 for the passage of cooling medium, the unnumbered inspection aperture through which elongate member 76 extends through which an inspection of the interior of the component is made possible, with the inspection aperture being arranged and dimensioned such that it forms a dust discharge aperture for dust or dirt particles contained in the cooling medium (because dust or dirt particles are smaller than the diameter of the inspection aperture), with the inspection aperture being dimensioned to enable introduction of a borescope (column 5, lines 38-41). Cederwall also discloses a process for inspection of the interior of the component, with the process comprising introducing an inspection tool in the form of a borescope through the inspection or dust discharge aperture, and performing inspection of the interior of the component with the inspection tool.

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Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Weidlich, Travaglini, and Hirst are cited to show flow components with an inspection aperture.

Glezer '832, Liotta, Glezer '606, Auxier, Holland, and Harvey are cited to show blade tip cooling passage arrangements.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Verdier whose telephone number is (703)-308-2638. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward K. Look can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



Christopher Verdier
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3745

C.V.
August 3, 2003